

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1511

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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EO 11652 GDS

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SUBJECT: PREMIER CHIANG AND THE RUSSIANS

1. SUMMARY: KMT-OWNED CHUNG YANG JIH PAO MARCH 6, IN EDITORIAL REITERATING STANDARD "NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC, NO CONTACT WITH RUSSIANS" LINE, MADE HIGHLY UNUSUAL REFERENCE TO "FOREIGN" SUSPICIONS OF CCK BASED UPON HIS RUSSIAN EDUCATION, WHICH IT THEN PROCEEDED TO KNOCK DOWN. GIO DIRECTOR FRED CHIEN HINTED EDITORIAL INTENDED FOR SOME IN GOVT AND PARTY WHO URGE OPEN OPTIONS POLICY VIS A VIS USSR. THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBLE INTENDED AUDIENCES AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. MARCH 6 EDITORIAL IN KMT-OWNED CHUNG YANG JIH PAO (CYJP) ADDED NEW NOTE TO OTHERWISE STANDARD REITERATION OF GOVERNMENT'S "NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC, NO CONTACTS WITH USSR" POLICY. TAKING OFF FROM PREMIER'S RECENT INTERVIEW
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WITH TIME'S ROY ROWAN (TAIPEI 1348) WHICH EMPHASIZED THE

NO NEGOTIATIONS, NO CONTACTS LINE, CYJP ADDED: "SOME FOREIGNERS USUALLY HOLD SINCE MAOISTS CAN COLLABORATE WITH US TO CHECK USSR, WHY CAN'T ROC COLLABORATE WITH USSR TO CHECK MAOISTS? IN SPITE OF RIFT AND CONTRADICTIONS, BOTH RUSSIAN AND CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE STILL COMMUNISTS. AS ANTI-COMMUNIST COUNTRY, ROC DEFINITELY WILL NOT COLLABORATE WITH DEVILS. OTHER FOREIGNERS' BELIEF IN POSSIBLE CONTACTS BETWEEN ROC AND USSR IS CAUSED BY REPEATED FORMER COOPERATION AND FACT THAT PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO ONCE RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN USSR. INDEED, PREMIER CHIANG WENT TO USSR TO STUDY WHEN YOUNG, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR PRIOR AND AFTER V-J DAY AND HELD FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH STALIN MANY TIMES. HOWEVER, ANTI-COMMUNIST KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE HE HAS LEARNED FROM PRES. CHIANG HAVE ENABLED HIM TO POSSESS FIRST-HAND AND PENETRATING UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNISM'S EVIL THEORY, SINISTER PLOTS AND SAVAGE PRACTICE." EDIT WENT ON TO POINT OUT PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S JAPANESE EDUCATION DID NOT PREVENT HIM FROM LEADING WAR AGAINST JAPAN.

3. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CCK'S RUSSIAN BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCES IN PUBLIC MEDIA DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (DESPITE WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE). GIO DIRECTOR FRED CHIEN ANSWERED OUR QUERY BY POINTING OUT THAT POSSIBILITY OF A "RUSSIAN CONNECTION" IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, AND THEY USUALLY REFER TO CCK'S LENGTHY STAY IN USSR. CHIEN IMPLIED EDITORIAL WAS INTENDED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL. THIS MAY WELL BE TRUE, THOUGH USE OF CYJP (RATHER THAN, SAY, EXPRESS NEWS) AS A VEHICLE FOR REACHING FOREIGNERS SEEMS A BIT ODD.

4. MORE INTERESTINGLY, CHIEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT "SOME PEOPLE- IN PARTY AND GOVT HAVE URGED POLICY OF "FLEXIBILITY" AND OPEN OPTIONS WITH REGARD TO SOVIETS, PREMIER HOWEVER HAS DECIDED ROC CANNOT AFFORD SUCH A POLICY AND MUST RELY EXCLUSIVELY UPON US.

5. CHIEN'S COMMENT INDICATES EDITORIAL INTENDED FOR MULTIPLE AUDIENCES, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL.
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IN ADDITION TO THOSE CITED BY CHIEN, THESE AUDIENCES PROBABLY INCLUDE OVERSEAS CHINESE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENTSIA WHO HAVE SPECULATED ABOUT A "RUSSIAN CONNECTION" IN MAGAZINES LIKE MAN AND SOCIETY (JEN YU SHE HUEI) AND CHINA MONTHLY (TA HUA); AND PERHAPS CONSERVATIVE AMERICANS SUPPORTERS OF ROC AS WELL. AS A MATTER OF PURE SPECULATION, WE SHOULD POINT OUT IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP IS ANOTHER POSSIBLE AUDIENCE.

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